re-appraised. Subsequently a modified report for an estimated cost of Rs. 67.40 crores envisaging benefits to an area of 27500 hectares has been received in June 1990. The State Government have been requested in October 1990 to furnish clarifications for deciding its acceptability for detailed examination. The clearance depends upon how soon the State Government complies with the observations and establishes techno-economic viability of the project.

*[Translation]*

**Closure of Mica Mines in Bihar**

2233. SHRI BHUVNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of mica mines in Bihar have been closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reopen those mines and provide employment to the workers rendered unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Land under Irrigation in Bihar**

2234. SHRI BHUVNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of cultivable land in Bihar; and

(b) the percentage of this land brought under irrigation so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The total cultivable area of Bihar is 11248 thousand hectares. The Gross area brought under irrigation facilities upto 1990-91 is 8.452 thousand hectares, which is 75.14% of the cultivable area.

*[English]*

**Land Holdings**

2235. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of land holdings of small and marginal farmers and the actual area cultivated by them in the country; and

(b) the estimated marketable surplus of foodgrains produced by the small and marginal farmers in the country and its percentage to the total marketable surplus of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) According to the results of Agricultural Census, 1985-86 the percentage of operational holdings of small and marginal farmers to the total number of operational holdings in the country is 18.4 and 57.8 respectively. The net cultivated area of small and marginal farmers in the country is 242.0 and 206.3 lakh hectares respectively.

(b) Information is not available.

**S.T.D. facility in Andhra Pradesh**

2236. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns having STD facility in Andhra Pradesh at present; and